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of his resentment at the "going away" from Yasnaya Polyana, there is, above all, admiration and wonder at the "old magician, scattering about him the living seeds of indomitable thoughts."

M. J.

London, England.

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INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. By C. Delisle Burns. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1920. Pp. x, 189. Price, 5s. net.

Mr. Burns has written an extraordinarily interesting and personal book in the guise of a handbook in which the chief problems arising from the contract between different governments and peoples are illustrated.

The scheme of treatment summarises the governing principle in international politics, the Great Power system, and the distinction between different kinds of states and governments. Differences in culture among states are then analysed, and we are next led to the relation between minor states and parts of states by industrialised countries and the exploitation of territories inhabited by native races. Attention is then turned to diplomacy which has been evolved for foreign politics, and to later stages of international organisation, such as the League of Nations; but of this organ he speaks critically, for "much of what is usually meant by a League of Nations remains in the region of the unrealised ideal." The original connections of the League, established under Peace Treaties which "contain evidences of vindictiveness, primitive jealousy and political incompetence have been detrimental to its prestige, and the problem arises whether the treaties will damn the League; or the League redeem the Treaties." His last word is, however, that the League is a fact which is new enough to be left for the present at least uncondemned.

As might be expected, among the wealth of material, Mr. Burns, who is a master of lucid statement, has chosen some very significant and unforgettable examples to illustrate his problems, relying on the fact that the need of the general public and even of some statesmen appears to be "not so much inculcation of a Gospel as instruction in an alphabet." Readers who follow him from Alpha to Omega will find the book a text book in the sense that it is a compact, well-arranged synopsis of international problems, brought up to date, but with none of the colourless neutrality characteristic of text books. "The plan is to give definite instances of these problems and not to discuss theory,"

is the promise upon the wrapper; actually the instances, chosen and set by Mr. Burns are as expressive as a discussion, for (as he admits in the introduction) a certain very definite attitude has been adopted and certain very definite conclusions are implied in regard to some issues. There is no mistake about his attitude; war is to him altogether an evil institution, and a useless and cumbrous political method, but hitherto the commodities of the world have been more truly international than are the minds of men; and it is clearly indicated that the interest of all nations is not to be found by the ancient process of each seeking its own. We are now standing at the beginning of a new period, able, if the desire is strong enough to transform the situation. *If the desire is strong enough*—but that is the key to the problem. There are, of course, many who desire to leave the world better than they found it, and they know the common life of men will not advance in happiness so long as national war and private greed are so prominent as they are now. “Idealists they may be called. Idealists,” Mr. Burns writes, “are the salt of the earth; but the salt is still in the salt-cellar, it has not been put into the eatables, and salt is after all for seasoning, not for snaring birds, as some politicians seem to suppose.” The problem, therefore, is to make ideals effective, and to induce idealists to act in financial, commercial, and administrative affairs. The creation of the international mind and the organisation of international action in every sphere, governmental and voluntary, is therefore the greatest need of the world to-day.

N. C.

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#### SHORTER NOTICES.

CHAOS AND ORDER IN INDUSTRY. By G. D. H. Cole. London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1920. Pp. viii, 292. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

We are actively conscious of industry today because of the interruptions—strikes—in its normal working, and as consumers and users, we have direct experience of the results of chaos in industry. The ordinary man realises that unless the chaos is converted into order, the future will hold for him, not merely occasional discomforts and disturbances, but perhaps the dissolution of the society on which the realisation of his personal desires depends. Thus far the majority of intelligent persons have got. They are *conscious* of industry, and some are even curious about the motives and capacity of the parties in the industrial conflict, but the highly technical nature of some industrial problems, the remoteness of the Trades Union organisation from the purview of the *intelligenza* baffle the inquirer. To such, Mr. Cole is a guide, throwing his clear dry light in dark places. Industrial disturbances are seen not as mere random ebullitions, but as symptoms of fundamental causes of unrest in the economic system.

The present problem is the readjustment of industry, and according to